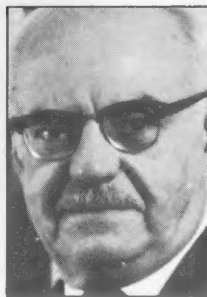


Video Art

VICTOR ANCONA



BARBARA BUCKNER: Psychic Poetry Exemplified

I became acquainted with Barbara Buckner's videoworks when they were shown this spring at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. Her 30-minute offering of 15 imaginatively synthesized poetic pieces drenched in magnificent color were titled: Grace, Body, Night, Lamb, Landscape, A Man, Hours, Image of the Kingdom, Mese, Mast, Axis, Waters, The Blue, Gathering In, and Dominion. Her work stood in sharp contrast to the fare presented by the other eleven video artists chosen to participate in the museum's 1979 Biennial.

Victor Ancona covers video art for this magazine.

In April, Barbara premiered a new work, *Pictures of the Lost*, an hour-long videotape shown under the aegis of the Film Archives Video Program curated by Shigeko Kubota at the Holly Solomon Gallery in New York's SoHo district. Sharing her private visual world, Barbara Buckner presented us with contemplative images that bore such titles as *One*, *The Initiate*, *Stranger in the Beloved*, *13th Dream*, *113th Dream* and *The Golden Rime*.

She describes her work as "visual cyphers depicting contiguous states of spiritual enfoldment. They are direct apprehensions of events occurring within, not physically seen or heard. The work is an attempt to render cor-

respondences between physical light/color/objects and visible realities via electronic image generation."

The large audience at the gallery, attentive and appreciative but rather distant, asked few questions after the presentation on three small monitors came to a close. By way of explanation, Barbara said that New York City audiences tend to maintain a certain distance from the artist and the work because they are surrounded by the high pressures of the New York art world.

"When I showed my work in Boston they were much more open. If people can be educated about a work on its own terms so they can begin to communicate and be open to it more, that would be wonderful."

"One of the pleasures of showing my tapes is to get feedback; it's educative. An artist should be direct with the audience, and if the work is an integral one, it will communicate what it is on its own terms. The creation of a work is a very long and complicated process and the artist should shed some light on the process with the audience. It could be a very gratifying and uplifting experience." When Barbara Buckner sees "good" video, she's very happy for herself as well as for the artists

VCR SYSTEMS START WITH...



...the Installation Components that deliver maximum signals for quality video recordings.

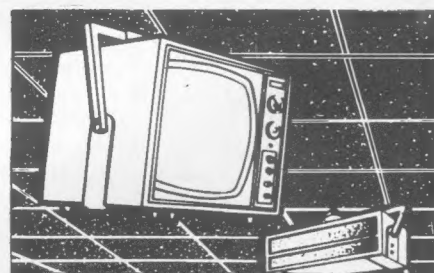
RMS has the VCR/TV Signal Mixers, Splitters, Baluns, Amplifiers, Hook-Up Cables, Connectors, and Special Kit Assortments for dependable and easy Home, In-Store, Industrial, and Institutional installations.

Want to know more? Write on your letterhead or see your RMS Rep for New "VCR Accessories" Booklet.



RMS ELECTRONICS, INC.
50 Antin Place, Bronx, N.Y., 10462
Tel. (212) 892-6700 Call Collect

Get more Info. Circle Reader Card No. 146



seeing is believing

NOW... HANG A LARGE TV OR SPEAKER FROM A FALSE CEILING EASILY AND QUICKLY

No need to tie into the true ceiling when you use this new concept in ceiling bracket design. It provides complete flexibility, safety, security and convenience. (Now protected by U.S. Patent No. 3,782,065.)

Write or call today for our brochure giving specifications on a complete line of TV/AV VTR brackets, stands, mounts and carts.

peerless sales company

1950 HAWTHORNE AVENUE
MELROSE PARK, ILLINOIS 60160
312-865-8870

Get more Info. Circle Reader Card No. 142

producing the work.

Did she mind if people did not decipher the titles as the originally saw them in her mind's eye? "Not at all. I expect different people to see different things in my work from time to time. It has so much to do with the mood someone's in when they see a work—the background noises, the distractions, the atmosphere, the day and time it is, what you had for dinner—all play a part."

While she groups video image-processing into one large category, Barbara's work is unique, distinctive, idiosyncratic simply because her preconceived images are indelibly her own. Her work is definitely not in the video wallpaper category. It ought to be seen again and again in order to perceive the subtleties that abound within each of the short pieces created from forces within her metaphysical world. The elusive enigmatic quality of her images are the basis of their appeal despite their weakness in metrical patterns.

Barbara Buckner uses only half of video's potential. That is, her tapes are always silent. "The music is in the work," she claims, and I totally agree with her. Sound would be an intrusive element in so pervasive a work.

As befits a poet, Barbara often speaks in metaphors. "We must control the electronic beast rather than fear it. We have to understand the nature of the physics of these machines. Once the power is on—I call it the snake of the alternating current—they can go on permutating themselves and begetting patterns until the artist acts to wreck the order of the machine with his or her presence—own act of imagination."

"I've never been one to sit and play. Content is very important to me. Yes, the medium has become an extension of myself, tools being the parents of the creator," she said. What used to be chance manipulation of images for Barbara, has now become a controlled mastery of the equipment to produce a preconceived dream image. Gone are the days when she "twisted deals to see what would happen."

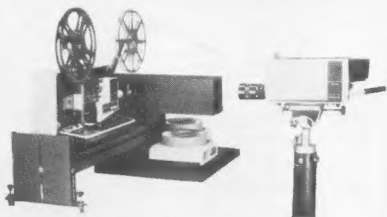
I asked Barbara Buckner how she garners her ideas. "You have to know what the work is before you begin. My thoughts come first, titles second. Then image-gathering takes place, and lastly, the processing. Once I name a work, it becomes alive within me. Now that I'm leaving literature behind a bit, my work will probably be named but not have a physical name—

numbers might be enough. The perception going on within me is on a very subconscious, dream-like level—images that are not read easily in one's waking life."

By titling her work at present, Barbara is forcing us to see the metaphors in her mind's eye rather than allowing us to journey into our own field of imagery. I for one felt constricted by her titles, becoming too preoccupied in search for descriptive or metaphoric meanings in her work. Besides, the titles take too much time to read in comparison to the viewing of the work itself. Nor do I believe that the viewer's consciousness has to be congruent with the maker's in order to appreciate the work. Barbara admits that there is "work cut out for her" and that she may drop titling altogether and merely number her work from one to a hundred and beyond. She has an acute sense of destiny, promises not to repeat herself, having a strong sense toward the act of creation.

"My imagery comes through my poetry—within my heart and mind. Am I religious, you ask? I have a great deal of interest in using highly sophisticated imagery to produce works of profound spiritual significance—not profound for everyone, of course, but

SEE BUHL'S MOBILE MULTIPLEXER IN YOUR OWN STUDIO!



That's right!

See Buhl's filmchain without a dedicated camera on tape in your own facility.

We use the "MM" to produce a program demonstrating its own capabilities.

Watch fade-dissolve, quick-cuts, animation with two slide projectors, and a 16mm projector.

Simply send us your own 10 minute, 3/4" cassette. We'll transfer our program onto your tape and return it to you, postpaid, within a few days.

Be sure to include your name and address!

BUHL OPTICAL
1009 Beech Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15233
Phone: 412-321-0076

BUHL

FREE!

WHO? For all video users.

WHAT? The 1978-79 Comprehensive Video Supply and Accessory catalog . . . 148 pages.

WHERE? Comprehensive Video Supply Corporation.

WHEN? Now.

WHY? To save you time and money in obtaining all your video supply needs.

HOW? Fill out coupon below and mail.

Or call TOLL FREE

800-526-0242,

except in New Jersey call

201-767-7990.



Comprehensive
VIDEO II SUPPLY CORPORATION

Comprehensive Video Supply Corporation
148 Veterans Drive, Northvale, N.J. 07647

Please send me your free Video Supply and Accessory catalog.

Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

profound for me. My imagery is very personal, directly concerned with my consciousness."

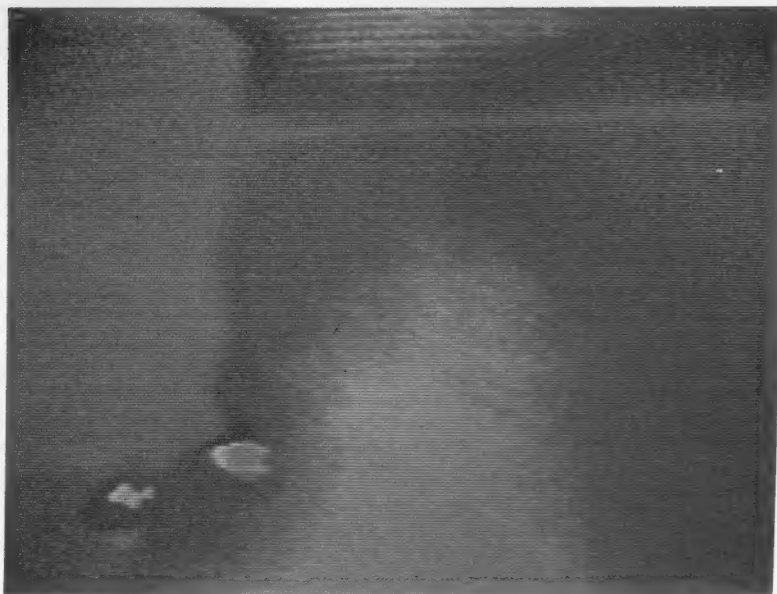
Chicago-born Barbara Buckner spent her early years in the New York metropolitan area, then entered Boston University's liberal arts program, aiming to become a journalist/writer. Her true ambition and inclination was to be a poet. As a result of writing a film script, she switched to New York University's School of Film and Television where, among other classes, she took a video course where she did some experimental work at Bill Etra's studio. In 1972 she earned a BFA degree. That same year she won second prize in the Yale Film Festival with a 20-minute film she "would rather not see again," even though it was shown at the Whitney Museum and contained "ideas of alchemy and seeds of concerns that I am now expressing more fully in video."

In 1973 she landed a two-year job as editor, camera and special effects person at Learning Disabilities Laboratory, New York, producing 12 half-hour tapes dealing with an innovative reading method.

The work, for Barbara, had a pictorial logic. She liked the malleable quality of video, then learned to control the medium. "At first my work had

a Neanderthal approach to it. I was in a hermitic position. If my work then went beyond two minutes in length, I would almost cry out 'enough!'" Her own impatience with her early work prompts her to keep her current idea/

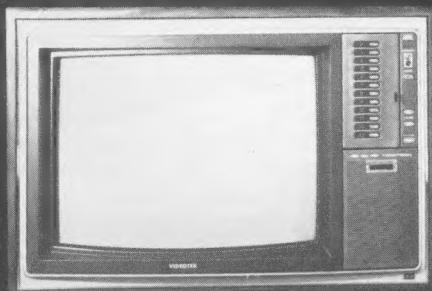
compositions at a minimum exposure to her audience. And therein lies a weakness. Since her metaphoric imagery is difficult to penetrate, it's often frustrating watching a Buckner work, only once. It's like being forced



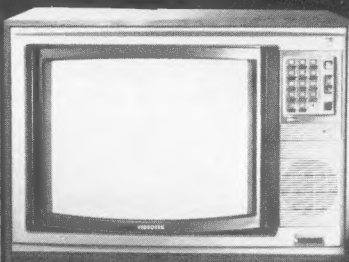
Seventeen and Twenty One Inch Remote Control Color Monitor/Receivers

THE REMOTE CONTROL CAPABILITY OF THE RM-17RC AND RM-21RC MAKE THESE THE MOST VERSATILE TRINITRON COLOR MONITOR/RECEIVERS OFFERED TO THE VIDEO INDUSTRY AND PRICED FAR BELOW THE SEVENTEEN AND TWENTY-ONE INCH UNITS OFFERED BY OUR COMPETITOR.

Features include: TV-Line-VTR Selection / DC Restoration / 8 Pin VTR Connector / Chassis AC Isolation / Express Tuning / Triple Function Remote Control Commander



RM-21RC



RM-17RC

These units are also available as Video Monitors, VM-17, VM-21. DC Restoration, Audio and 8 Pin Connector are standard.

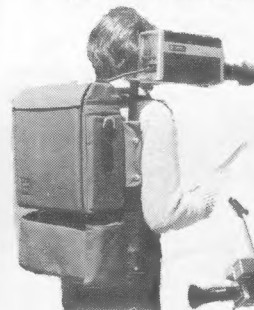
QUALITY ENDURES AT:

VIDEOTEK INC

125 North York Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464 / (215) 327-2292
9625 North 21st Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85021 / (602) 997-7523

Get more Info. Circle Reader Card No. 160

PORTA-BRACE™



Carry your portable recorder and camera on your back ...or put it on wheels.



Back packs, cases and carts for:

JVC HR4100, Panasonic PV2100 and PV2200, Quazar VH 5200, SONY SL3000 and others.

DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

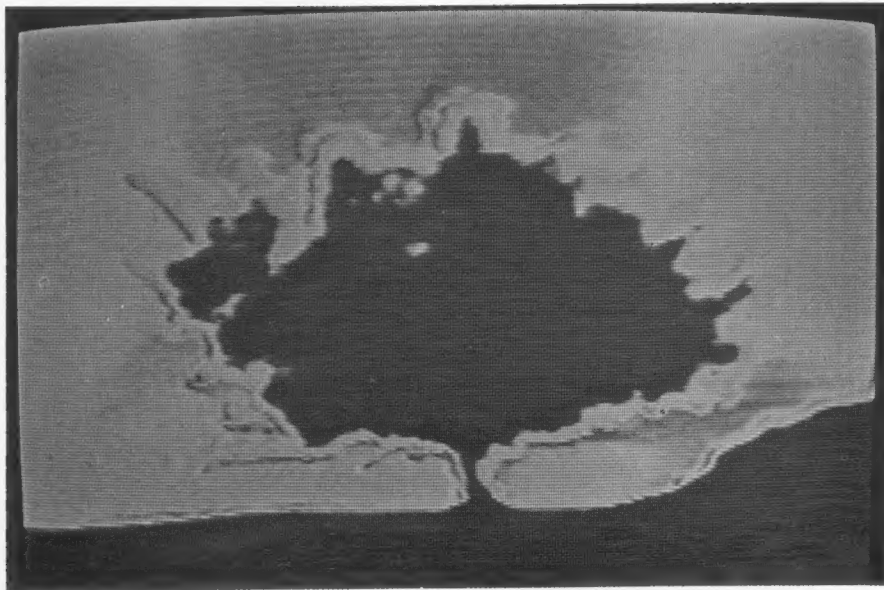
CALL US — WE CAN MEET YOUR TRANSPORT NEEDS



K and H Products, Ltd.
Box 246, North Bennington
Vermont 05257 802-442-9118

Get more Info. Circle Reader Card No. 134

Videography



Two images from *Pictures of the Lost*, and the creator. The hour-long work premiered in April at the Holly Solomon Gallery in New York's SoHo.



to leave an interesting party just as introductions are being made, and being whisked off to another party, and another, ad infinitum.

At present, Barbara is a video instructor and video studio director at the School of Visual Arts, New York. "I love teaching," she said, "and I've learned to regulate my energy and engender enthusiasm among my students." She is, like many a video artist, frustrated in not being able to own her own equipment so that she could work whenever the Muse called. "Fifteen thousand dollars would do it nicely," she said.

Video poet Barbara Buckner has had numerous solo and group exhibitions, has lectured, and has been an artist-in-residence mostly in New York State and in Massachusetts. Since she weaves the threads of her subconscious mind into delicate tapestries for us to contemplate and enjoy, her work is worthy of being shown throughout the United States and particularly abroad where her sensibilities have roots.

The coupling of the spirit with technology as exemplified in Barbara Buckner's work is a daring attempt toward total creation in a new medium, a natural extension of the spiritual destiny of the artist.



An extensive listing of home video entertainment!

Major motion pictures, rock concerts, children's programs, sports, and more.

Immediate Delivery / Excellent Quality

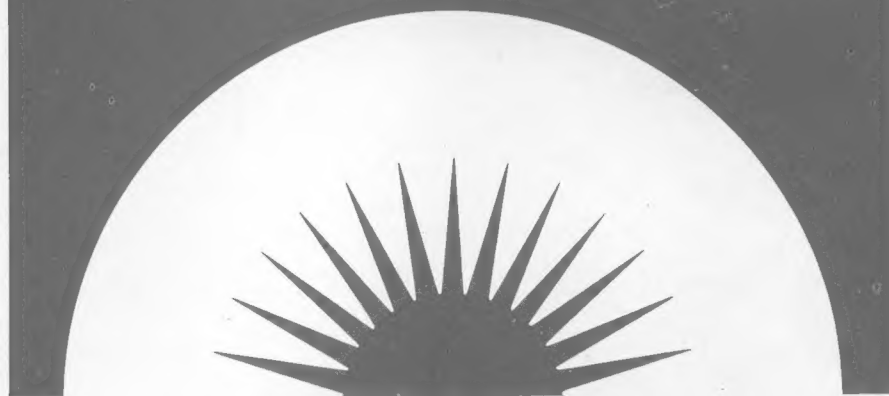
Send for FREE CATALOG or call
Toll Free: 1-800-348-2462

NILES CINEMA

Dept. VO, 1141 Mishawaka Avenue
South Bend, Indiana 46615

Get more Info. Circle Reader Card No. 139

VIDEOCASSETTE DUPLICATION..... VIDEO EQUIPMENT SALES TAPE-TO-FILM TRANSFERS



Columbia Pictures Videocassette Services
1501 Landmeier Road, Elk Grove Village
Illinois 60007 • Telephone (312) 640-2350

A division of Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc.

Get more Info. Circle Reader Card No. 108

PHASER



A high performance full Frame Store TBC/Synchronizer with Freeze Frame for less than \$18,000.

We take pride in introducing the PHASER, a Frame Store TBC/Synchronizer that outperforms all the economy priced models on the market, and sells for less too.

The PHASER is a new "computer" technology system that uses software to save you money.

The PHASER offers many significant unique advantages.

- Multiple microprocessors and adaptive digital circuitry eliminate adjustments and mode switching.
- A clean "Hot Switch" between non-synchronous heterodyne and direct color signals, with full bandwidth processing.
- Automatic phase locking between multiple input signals and station reference.
- Horizontal and Vertical Blanking are never widened.
- A "smart" hands-off system that runs itself.
- The cleanest pictures anywhere.

Add to these the best features offered on competitive models, which we consider as standard, and you've got the PHASER, the undisputed leader in its class.

The PHASER is backed up by a network of conveniently located service centres, the most comprehensive warranty in the business, and a unique "No-Tweak" board exchange program when the initial one year warranty period is over.

Talk to your nearest authorized Digital dealer. He'll prove there is no other choice. Or ask us for full details: Digital Video Systems, 716 Gordon Baker Road, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2H 3B4. (416) 499-4826



DIGITAL

The digital video experts.

AUGUST 1979

\$1.50

Videography

**LATEST
HOME VCR'S**

**DO-IT-
YOURSELF
NETWORK**

**PRODUCING
RAY TV**

**ET
BAG**

**TING
BOSS**

**MIRACLES
OF FILM
EDITING**



3rd ANNUAL GUIDE TO POSTPRODUCTION FACILITIES